



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **Closing Plenary Session of OSCE Review Conference in Vienna, Austria**

As delivered by Dr. Michael Haltzel  
October 26, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, we would like to express our thanks to the Kazakhstani Chairmanship and to the Secretariat for the organization of this Review Conference. We have highly valued the opportunity to engage with other delegations from both participating and Partner States, as well as with international organizations and NGO representatives.

In that connection, we welcome the important role that civil society representatives play in this organization's work and in mobilizing progress in our societies.

The United States have listened carefully to the ideas and comments offered by others during the Vienna portion of the Review Conference, and we see a number of areas of emerging consensus that could be included in the Summit documents.

We believe that the Kazakhstani Chair's Food-for-Thought paper, distributed on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, is a good framework for further discussions on the Summit documents. The section on commemoration and reaffirmation of commitments reflects many of the priorities and principles upon which the OSCE is based.

The Summit document must reaffirm the core OSCE *acquis* across all three dimensions, must acknowledge failures in implementation of commitments, particularly in the human dimension, and must pledge participating States' political will to implement these commitments.

The section on "Shared Challenges and Priorities," however, should go beyond laying out well-known rhetorical positions. It needs to take into account some of the disagreements and challenges we have not yet resolved, including returning a meaningful OSCE presence to Georgia. At this review conference many of these hard issues have been raised and discussed. Looking ahead, we need to identify how we might resolve our differences, rather than merely paper them over, if this organization is to regain relevance. In order to deal with these issues, we need agreement on a robust and substantively ambitious action plan at the Astana Summit.

The portion on Shared Objectives – the Action Plan – should not simply extend the discussions under the Corfu Process, but should set out a clear direction for future work, including actual goals, taskings, and deadlines.

We must build on areas of potential consensus by concentrating on the high priority areas that have emerged, both from Corfu discussions and from the Review Conference thus far. These include:

First, enhancing our crisis response capacities so as to address emerging crises in all three dimensions in a more effective and timely way;

Second, giving new impetus to the peaceful settlement of the protracted conflicts, including through restoration of a meaningful status-neutral OSCE presence in Georgia;

Third, substantially enhancing and updating the Vienna Document in 2011 to improve military transparency, with priority given to increasing opportunities for inspections and evaluations, enhancing inspection and evaluation teams, and lowering thresholds for notification and observation of Certain Military Activities;

Fourth, supporting transparency and anticorruption measures in the economic and environmental dimension, including endorsement of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and establishing an ad-hoc working group to address emerging energy security issues;

Fifth, addressing a persistent lack of implementation of commitments in the human dimension and ways to reinvigorate progress in this area, and reaffirming Helsinki Final Act principles on fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and assembly and their continued importance in our modern, digital age;

Sixth, exploring ways to address, in all three dimensions, transnational threats stemming from South Central Asia, including strengthening the border management framework between the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan as well as ways to assist economic development by facilitating licit commercial and financial activities in the region;

Seventh, extending OSCE engagement with, and support for, Afghanistan across all three dimensions;

Eighth, adopting a convention on legal personality and privileges and immunities;

Ninth and finally, ensuring that this organization optimally uses its limited resources, to carry out the tasks we have given it.

An integral part of the action plan will be a strategy for its implementation.

The United States believes that, with the requisite political will, fulfillment of the Action Plan can be achieved on most of these items before the next Ministerial in Vilnius.

But let me underscore that it is political will that is the catalyzing ingredient. We would also suggest that an item-by-item review of progress in implementing the action plan be held in mid-2011.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States wants this organization to succeed.

We agreed to the Astana summit precisely because we believe that the OSCE needs to be put back onto the clear path laid out 20 years ago in the Charter of Paris, which set forth a framework for common action in all three dimensions essential to our security.

Ensuring the security, dignity, and rights of each individual within our borders is our most important responsibility. We owe it to them to move beyond rhetoric to action.

With just five weeks remaining, we need to agree on specific actions to ensure a successful summit that is worthy of the principles and objectives set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris - and of the aspirations of our peoples.

The United States would be hard pressed to accept a Summit Action Plan without the specific goals and implementation measures that I have outlined.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.